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**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

**OCTOBER 2021**

**Celebrating arts, culture and history**

Music, workshops, heritage, and more form the mainstay of varied programme of events and activities to mark Black History Month.

**[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth)**

 **THEvents**  **TowerHamletsEvents**  **TowerHamletsNow** **#THBHM**



**Arts and crafts**

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**Family**

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**Fashion**

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**Film**

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**History**

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**Literature/storytelling**

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**Music**

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**Online event**

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**Photography**

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**Talk**

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**Theatre**

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**Celebrating arts, culture and history**

 **THEvents**  **TowerHamletsEvents**  **TowerHamletsNow** **#THBHM**

[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth)

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## London African Music Festival: The African Jazz Orchestra



**25 September**

**Saturday**

**Rich Mix, The Stage, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA**

**Admission: £17.50**

Jazz with African swagger. The 10-piece African Jazz Orchestra is directed by Cameroonian French double and electric bassist Serge Ngando-Mpondo. The orchestra is the musical vision of a founder who aims to see adventurous collaborations that will provide musical styles spanning the whole continent of Africa.

The African Jazz Orchestra is packed with brilliant soloists and has one aim which is to rekindle people's love affair with African jazz. Their brilliant music takes the listeners to the roots of all black music where hi-life meets afrobeat and then meeting jazz along the way.



Bassist and leader Serge Ngando-Mpondo has spent the last few years writing for this orchestra with the aim of creating spectacular live shows with some of the best African jazz soloists in contemporary music. The extraordinary line-up of established and young names combined to take on a journey of African jazz improvisations with dance grooves undertone.

Together they speak with one unique voice that creates music that has no boundaries.

🏠 [www.richmix.org.uk](http://www.richmix.org.uk)

## Theaster Gates: A Clay Sermon



**29 September -  
22 January 2022**

**Whitechapel Gallery, 77-82  
Whitechapel High Street, E1 7QX**

**Admission: Free**

Clay and religion are foundational to the artistic practice of the Chicago based artist who has received international acclaim for his community and cultural interventions in Black space, particularly on the South Side of Chicago. As a youth, Gates joined the New Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church choir and, subsequently, studied urban planning, theology and ceramics.

A Clay Sermon is an exposition of the significance of clay, its material and spiritual legacies. Bringing together research, ideas, process and production, this exhibition surveys works by Gates across two decades from his early hand-thrown pots to his large-scale Afro-Mingei sculptures. It explores craft, labour, performance and racial identity; the use of clay in building communities of knowledge, its role in colonialism and global trade and the ceremonial and ritual use of ceramics.



Here Gates's transformation of clay – from geological substance into utilitarian and artistic material – stands as a powerful metaphor for his socially-engaged work and wider artistic practice. This major solo exhibition of the artist's clay-based work plays the central role in an ambitious collaboration between the Whitechapel Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) and Serpentine.

🏠 [www.whitechapelgallery.org](http://www.whitechapelgallery.org)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# FRI 1

## Beauty & Power



**1-27 October**

**Monday-Friday  
9am – 5pm**

**Brady Arts Centre, 192-196 Hanbury  
Street, E1 5HU**

**Admission: Free**

Alternative Arts presents ten black artists who have been invited to exhibit their photography at the Brady Arts Centre during Black History Month. Covid confinement has inspired a series of stunning portraits and observations about Motherhood, Superheroes, Identity and Rituals past and present. The show is a celebration of black culture, perception and moving personal experience. The exhibition will also be available online at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)

The Black History Month Photography Exhibition features Dola Posh, Asiko, Dexter McLean, Olufemi Olaiya, Adaeze Ihebohm, Keleenna Onyeaka, Bettina Adela, Denise Ebanks, Aisha Northeast and Shainy Vilo.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [www.alternativearts.org.uk](http://www.alternativearts.org.uk)  
✉ [info@alternativearts.co.uk](mailto:info@alternativearts.co.uk)





## Black Londoners Through Time



**1-31 October**

**Monday to Friday  
9am – 5pm**

**Museum of London Docklands,  
1 Warehouse, West India Key,  
No, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL  
Admission: Free**

Learn about key moments in London's Black history with our interactive timeline. Understand the origins of this diverse city by exploring some notable people and events which shaped this city.

## Soup Stories



**2 October– 1 November  
Saturdays and Sundays in  
October**

**Museum of London Docklands,  
1 Warehouse, West India Key,  
No, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL  
Admission: Free**

Drop in to our weekend storytelling sessions inspired by African-Caribbean foods and our new display 'Feeding Black: Community, Power & Place'.



### London's Black History

Explore Black Londoners' stories in the Museum of London's collection through articles, videos and photography. You can hear the voices of the Windrush generation, learn about dub reggae's influence on the capital and explore the heritage of Black Londoners thanks to our online resources.

🏠 [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# SAT 2

## NUMBI Film Screening on the Life of Kathleen Warsame



**2 October**

**Saturday  
2pm – 5pm**

**Granby Community Hub Goldman  
Close, E2 6DT**

**Admission: Free, donations welcome**

50 min BBC Documentary whose key themes include Somali history of the East End, anti-racist community activism, Somali seafarers, Cable Street and Poplar. With a discussion of the life of Kathleen Warsame and conversations on thoughts and observations of the themes of the film.

This is part of Numbi Arts' Hayaan – Journey Together programme which explores black histories in Tower Hamlets.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**



🏠 [numbi.org](https://numbi.org)  
🐦 [@numbiarts](https://twitter.com/numbiarts)  
📷 [@numbiarts](https://www.instagram.com/numbiarts)



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# MON 4

## Canal & River Trust Black History Month Launch Event



**4 October**  
**Monday 10am**  
**Online**

Click here to watch:

**Canal & River Trust - YouTube**

This is an introduction to the Canal & River Trust as well as their Black History Month programme. The keynote speaker is Lord Paul Boateng.

Find out what the Canal & River Trust does and learn about the role of the Museum of London Docklands with an inspirational talk from Lord Boateng. This will be followed by a discussion between the Canal and River Trust Youth Fellows, Lord Paul Boateng and the panel.

All are welcome!



🏠 [canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

To book upcoming events:

**Canal & River Trust Events**



**Canal &  
River Trust**

Making life better by water

## Born of Good Intentions: Black Victorian Children in a Dr Barnardo's Home



**5 October**

**Tuesday 7pm**

**Zoom event**

To book click [here](#).

In 1866 Dr Thomas John Barnardo set up his first ragged school. This was a free school for poor children who lived in the East End of London. However, it was soon clear to him that although the children could go to school, they had nowhere to live. By 1870 he set up his first children's orphanage and it wasn't long before he began to take in children from very poor families. Some of the poorest children belonged to Black Victorians, and Barnardo's was the first charity to take them in. Come and hear the story of the first Black children in the UK to be placed in



care and fostered. Who were they? What happened to them? How did they come to England? Why were they here in the first place? Hear about some of the children's lives.

🏠 [www.avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk](http://www.avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk)

🐦 [Avrilswalkstalks](#)

📷 [AvrilsWalksandTalks](#)

📘 [avrilswalksandtalks](#)

## NUMBI Archiving Somali Culture in Tower Hamlets



**9 October**

**Saturday 2 – 4pm**

**Granby Community Hub Goldman  
Close, E2 6DT**

**Admission: Free, donations welcome**

An interactive workshop with Numbi Arts and Tower Hamlets Archive, introducing its Somali collection at Tower Hamlets Local History Archive and Library. This session will be an opportunity for participants to learn about archival practices and gain insight into not only local Somali history but also THLHAL more broadly. This session includes a screening of the short documentary film 'Somali Seafarers' on the lives of Somali sailors who have made Seamen's Rest their home.

This is part of Numbi Arts' Hayaan – Journey Together programme which explores black histories in Tower Hamlets.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**



NUMBI is a kind of dance that happens in Somalia where one lets go of one's inhibitions and gets free. It is that ethos, with the emphasis on freedom, that inspired NUMBI founder, Kinsi Abdulleh, to set up the organisation.

🏠 [numbi.org](https://numbi.org)  
🐦 [@numbiarts](https://twitter.com/numbiarts)  
📷 [@numbiarts](https://www.instagram.com/numbiarts)

## Three The Hard Way



**9 October**

**Saturday 7 – 10.30pm**

**Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street,  
E14 6TL**

**Admission: £5**

To book click [here](#).

A night of music from three of the stellar voices on the UK Reggae scene and one new R'n'B young voice, backed by 'The Staff of Life Band'. This Black History Month Special features Lyn Gerald, Reme, Rafeelya and Delroy Pinnock.

### **About the artists**

With her soft and soulful approach, Reme is paving a way for herself as one of the talents to be looking out for in 2021.

RAFEELYA was the recipient of 1st place in 'Britain's Got Reggae' competition with a voice that encapsulates a husky soulfulness.



London based Reggae artist Delroy Pinnock has been honing his vocal skills from the age of 14. A natural talent with a velvet voice and vocal style mixing soulful and reggae elements.

Curator of this event, Lyn Gerald, has been a back-up singer for artists like Womack and Womack and Kymani Marley. She has a wealth of experience she aims to nurture upcoming talent and celebrate reggae.

## Raise the Banner



**9 October**

**Saturday 7.30pm**

**St John on Bethnal Green  
200 Cambridge Heath Road,  
Bethnal Green, E2 9PA**

**Admission: £8 (£5 concessions)**

This show commemorates historical events very relevant to the UK at the present time – the Poplar Rates Rebellion (100th), the Battle of Cable Street (85th) and the publication of Stepney Words (50th). This will involve Grand Union Voices, representing the whole demographic of East London, the Grand Union Youth Orchestra and the GUO.

 [www.grandunion.org.uk](http://www.grandunion.org.uk)



## Horace Ové's Pressure



**10 October**

**Sunday 8.30pm**

**Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End  
Road, Bethnal Green, E1 4UJ**

**Admission: £5.50, or free to Tower  
Hamlets residents**

To book click [here](#).

Hailed as Britain's first black feature film, *Pressure* (1976) dramatizes the tensions between three generations of a Trinidadian family living in West London's Ladbroke Grove. It tells the story of Tony, the family's younger son who is unemployed, discriminated against and disillusioned. He rebels against his parent's church-going conformity and follows his older brother into the Black Power movement. This hard hitting narrative has been described as "a gritty and dynamic study of a generation in crisis".

Ové has said: "What *Pressure* tried to do was to portray the experience of the Windrush generation, the kids who came with them and the kids born here."



This is being screened as part of London Throughout the Decades, a film season showcasing key London set films by black filmmakers.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [www.genescinema.co.uk](http://www.genescinema.co.uk)



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# SUN 10

## Purple Moon Drama New Writing Scratch Night



**10 October**

**Sunday 7.30pm**

**Poplar Union, 2 Cotall St, E14 6TL**

**Admission: £7 / £5 conc.**

**Age suitability: 14+**

To book click [here](#).

Purple Moon Drama is handing over the mic this Black History Month. Emerging writers have the chance to have their voice heard in an evening of collaboration and creative expression.

Come and witness some fresh and inspiring new work by young creatives of colour.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# MON 11

## Franco Rosso's Babylon



**11 October**

**Monday 9pm**

**Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End  
Road, Bethnal Green, E1 4UJ**

**Admission: £5.50, or free to Tower  
Hamlets residents**

To book click [here](#).

Babylon is a 1980 British drama film directed by Franco Rosso. Written by Franco Rosso and Martin Stellman (Quadrophenia), and shot by two-time Academy Award winner Chris Menges (The Killing Fields), Babylon is an incendiary portrait of racial tension and police brutality set in Brixton, London. The film, anchored by Dennis Bovell's propulsive score, is partly based on Bovell's false imprisonment for running a Jamaican sound system, Sufferer's Hi Fi, in the mid-70s.



"A subcultural snapshot, a portrait of an underground musical scene, a time capsule for Thatcher's Britain and a still timely cri de coeur, Babylon sent out shock waves from the moment it had its first public screening." (Rolling Stone)

This is being screened as part of London Throughout the Decades, a film season showcasing key London set films by black filmmakers.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [www.genescinema.co.uk](http://www.genescinema.co.uk)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# TUE 12

## Isaac Julien's Young Soul Rebels



**12 October**

**Tuesday 9pm**

**Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End Rd,  
Bethnal Green, E1 4UJ**

**Admission: £5.50, or free to Tower  
Hamlets residents**

To book click [here](#).

Young Soul Rebels is a 1991 British coming-of-age thriller written by Derek Saldaan McClintock, Isaac Julien and Paul Hallam, and directed by Julien as his first narrative feature film. The film examines the interaction between youth cultural movements during the late 1970s in the UK — namely skinheads, punks, and soulboys — along with the social, political, and cultural tensions between them.

Set the long hot summer of 1977, London was preparing for the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations and the temperatures simmered between burgeoning the punk soul and funk scenes. Social and sexual



tensions soared following the murder of a local black gay man.

"This beautifully crafted period piece, a bold and stylish debut feature from Isaac Julien, paints a convincing picture of late-'70s London. The city is a carefully mapped out social landscape, open to all but offering safety to none." IMDb

This is being screened as part of London Throughout the Decades, a film season showcasing key London set films by black filmmakers.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [www.genescinema.co.uk](http://www.genescinema.co.uk)

## Poetry of Skin Tones



**13 October**

**Wednesday**

**For times and how to book,  
please visit the website**

**Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End  
Road, Bethnal Green, E1 4UJ**

"We may never see change in our life time, but if we can plant the foundation for change then the future shall be brighter."

Come and see the debut of the film made by young people in collaboration with the sensational IMD Legion after a week of workshops earlier this summer to explore Black identity and leadership in 2021.

Participants used dance, spoken word and poetry as a creative response to recent events including the untimely death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement.



"Our differences make us beautiful, our skin colour makes us unique! Many cultures facilitate growth, our lifestyles educate us and red blood cells we bleed unite us!

This is our reality"

The performance was filmed in Tower Hamlets' Victoria Park.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

**🏠 [www.genescinema.co.uk](http://www.genescinema.co.uk)**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# WED 13

## Shola Amoo's A Moving Image



**13 October**

**Wednesday 9pm**

**Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End  
Road, Bethnal Green, E1 4UJ**

**Admission: £5.50, or free to Tower  
Hamlets residents**

To book click [here](#).

After a long absence, Nina returns home to Brixton, a rapidly gentrifying community in South London. She sets out to create a documentary film that explores her complex relationship with her community. In doing so she poses a tricky question - is she part of the problem or can she use her work to be part of the solution?

A Moving Image is a multimedia feature film by Shola Amoo about Gentrification in Brixton, incorporating fiction, documentary and performance art.



This is being screened as part of London Throughout the Decades, a film season showcasing key London set films by black filmmakers.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [www.genescinema.co.uk](http://www.genescinema.co.uk)

## Let's Talk - Black History Month Talking Diaries



**14 October**

**Thursday**

**Spotlight Youth Centre 30 Hay  
Currie Street, E14 6GN**

**Admission: Free, booking essential**

To book click [here](#).

The Canals and Rivers Trust would love to hear your amazing stories. Come down to E14 and share your tales about what brought you to Tower Hamlets, your heritage, your community and who you are! This can be recorded on audio or video.

This is a fantastic opportunity to capture oral history from diverse members of the community of all ages.

Refreshments will be provided.



Take part in a great reminiscence workshops, get connected and share tea, talk and tales of Tower Hamlets.

🏠 [canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

To book upcoming events:  
**Canal & River Trust Events**



**Canal &  
River Trust**  
Making life better by water



## Sounding Bethnal Green



**15 October - 19 November**  
**Friday 7pm**

**St John on Bethnal Green,  
200 Cambridge Heath Road,  
Bethnal Green, E2 9PA**

**Admission: Free, donations welcome**

Grand Union Orchestra deliver weekly events combining performance, participation, story-telling, practical workshop and debate. These highlight and celebrate the musical cultures flourishing in East London today. Sounding Bethnal Green is presented by artists from those communities, often first-generation migrants themselves.

Artists to be announced late September.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**



The Grand Union Orchestra is the acknowledged pioneer and leading exponent of cross-cultural music-making in the UK. Once memorably commended for 'making cultural diversity an art-form', it continues to blaze a trail unrivalled by any other organisation, characterised by its story-telling and the authentic 'lived experience' of its artists.

🏠 [www.grandunion.org.uk](http://www.grandunion.org.uk)

🐦 [Grand\\_union](#)

📘 [grandunionorchestra](#)

## “Add another lak to it” BLC



**16 October**

**Saturday 5.30pm**

**Kobi Nazrul Centre, 30 Hanbury Street, E1 6QR**

**Admission: Optional donation between £3-£5 at the door**

To book click [here](#).

“How can this amount suffice? Add another lak to it.”

This play, based on historical sources, tells the story of how in 1487 the Habshi rule of Bengal began and what happened during the short-lived turbulent years that caused its end in 1494.

The performance includes contextualisation of the period. It looks at how and when the Ethiopians came to Bengal, what roles they played and how some of them rose to power to become sultans of the powerful, large and economically rich territory of the Bengal Sultanate.



In total, there were four sultans from an Ethiopian background that ruled the Bengal Sultanate for nearly seven years.

The short period of Ethiopian or Habshi rule of Bengal (1487-1494) was also very significant, at least, in one major way. It ended the previous Ilyas Shahis that ruled Bengal for about 150 years with a short break and was the longest dynastic rule of the Bengal Sultanate.

Presentation, performance and Q&A

## Personal Archiving Workshop and Dance



**16 October**

**Saturday  
1 – 5pm**

**Granby Community Hub Goldman  
Close, E2 6DT**

**Admission: Free, donations welcome**

An interactive art and archiving session, highlighting the importance of personal digital archiving. A workshop where participants are encouraged to bring photographs of their family or objects to share and discuss with the group.

The workshop is designed to share creative ways for participants to record and preserve family or other important histories. To positively redress the lack of public records and inaccurate recordings of Black histories. With a dance workshop with a special guest!



This is part of Numbi Arts' Hayaan – Journey Together programme which explores black histories in Tower Hamlets.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [numbi.org](https://numbi.org)

🐦 [@numbiarts](https://twitter.com/numbiarts)

📷 [@numbiarts](https://www.instagram.com/numbiarts)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# SUN 17

## Samba de Raiz: Black History Month East End Special



**17 October**

**Sunday  
4 – 9pm**

**Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street,  
E14 6TL**

**Admission: £10**

To book click [here](#).

This authentic Roda de Samba moves East to celebrate Black History Month through joyful, communal Brazilian vibes.

Samba de Raiz literally translates as “roots samba” and means traditional, old school samba from the first half of the 20th century, before orchestras, electric instruments and pop influences were incorporated into the genre.



Get up close and personal with Brazilian Culture through an intensive, immersive and authentic Latin experience with Roda de Samba de Raiz.

Subscribe to our email newsletter to receive updates about what's happening at Poplar Union!

🏠 [www.poplarunion.com](http://www.poplarunion.com)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# MON 18

## **IROKO Theatre Cultural Jamboree**



**18-22 October**

**Monday- Friday**

**10.30am and 1.45pm**

**Brady Arts Centre, 192-196 Hanbury  
Street, E1 5HU**

**Admission: £5.50, or free to Tower  
Hamlets residents**

IROKO Theatre Company provide unforgettable experiences for young people and this is a free theatre opportunity for schools as part of Tower Hamlets Council's Black History Month celebrations in 2021.

IROKO will provide two dramatic, exhilarating performances each day. These are colourful and interactive dramatisations of myths, legends or fables about the exploits of various African tricksters. The programme uses live drumming, dance, songs, chants and sometimes masquerades filled with excitement and fun.



IROKO Theatre Company enhances the understanding and appreciation of African culture and arts, amongst society as a whole, and particularly as a vehicle for facilitating learning and self-development amongst children and young people.

Aimed at Key Stages 1 and 2, allocation is on a first come first served basis on receipt of completed booking form. Please email [kazi.begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:kazi.begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk) for a booking form.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

## Let's Talk - Black History Month Talking Diaries



**19 October**

**Tuesday**

**Account3 3 Birkbeck Street, E2 6JY**

**Admission: Free, booking essential**

To book click [here](#).

The Canals and Rivers Trust would love to hear your amazing stories. Come down to E14 and share your tales about what brought you to Tower Hamlets, your heritage, your community and who you are! This can be recorded on audio or video.

This is a fantastic opportunity to capture oral history from diverse members of the community of all ages. Refreshments will be provided.



🏠 [canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

To book upcoming events:  
**Canal & River Trust Events**





**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# WED 20

## Let's Walk – Docklands Black History Month Walks



**20 October**  
**Wednesday**

**Entrance to Museum London  
Docklands, 1 Warehouse, West India  
Quay, No, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL**

**Admission: Free, booking essential**

To book click [here](#).

Let's Walk is designed as an introduction for those who want to take up walking as well as chance to look at the black history of the area.

All walks are free, fun and friendly. The weekly walk, run by Canal & River Trust, will be led by qualified walk leaders who are also full of interesting information about the local area.

The circular walks will start and finish at the Entrance to Museum London Docklands, and follow routes which include the Docklands.



Why not come along, get more active, meet new people, discover your local canal towpaths and discover how the history of the area is related to the transatlantic slave trade.

🏠 [canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

To book upcoming events:  
**Canal & River Trust Events**



## History on the Road



**21 October**

**Thursday  
7.30 – 8.30pm**

**Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street,  
E14 6TL**

**Admission: £10 / £8 conc.**

**Age suitability: 14+**

To book click [here](#).

Road Productions presents History on the Road by Aaliyah McKay, a play about black female empowerment and the importance of family. It looks at the historical changes in race laws made at Mary's family owned salon over the 50 years.

With Mary's family-owned hair salon closing, she looks back to the black rights protests and political changes that she has been a part of, and that history has seen. The characters reflect on their protesting at the Black People's Day of Action in 1981 and the lasting impacts on black young people today.



With music bringing fun, joy, and energy, we watch as people come and go in the family-run salon, sharing their moments in history.

🏠 [www.poplarunion.com](http://www.poplarunion.com)

**poplar  
Union**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# FRI 22

## African Spiritual Practices, Then and Now



**22 / 23 October**

**Friday and Saturday  
12noon – 9pm**

**Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road,  
E1 6LA**

**Admission: £10 / £8 conc.**

This weekend will incorporate talks, workshops and a marketplace on altars, crystals, yoga, tarot, hermetic knowledge, magic, shamanic healing, psychedelics and more.

Activities will explore the African origins of human spirituality, its spread internationally with the movements of people out of Africa as well as the diverse spiritual and healing modalities and technologies it has spawned all over the world.



Whether you're an Ifa priestess, Shamanic Practitioner, Yoruba Babalawo, wondering how to create an altar, interested in metaphysics, wondering about the planets, magic and the moon. We have something here for you.

Come and discover a world of information, artefacts, tools, practices and community.

🏠 [www.richmix.org.uk](http://www.richmix.org.uk)

## NUMBI Print-making Workshop



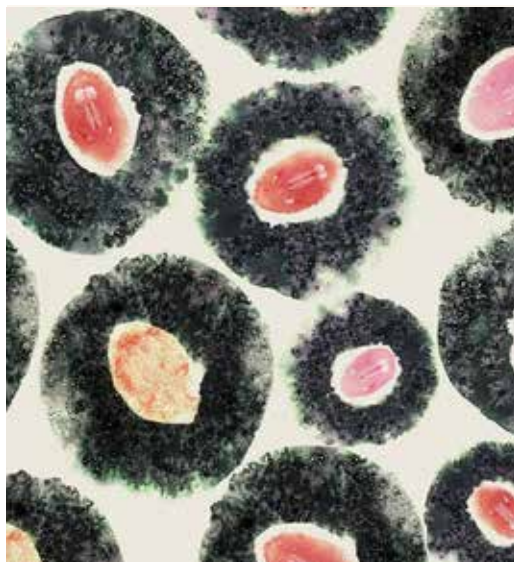
**23 October**

**Saturday 2 – 4pm**

**Granby Community Hub Goldman  
Close, E2 6DT**

**Admission: Free, donations welcome**

This session is an introduction to African visual cultures and geometric shapes and is an opportunity for participants to apply this knowledge to their own attempts at printmaking in a supported environment. During this workshop participants will be introduced to the newly established Somali Museum UK and have the opportunity to contribute to the collection.



This is part of Numbi Arts' Hayaan – Journey Together programme which explores black histories in Tower Hamlets.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [numbi.org](https://numbi.org)

🐦 [@numbiarts](https://twitter.com/numbiarts)

📷 [@numbiarts](https://www.instagram.com/numbiarts)

## Centre Stage



**23 October**

**Saturday 7 – 10.30pm**

**Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street,  
E14 6TL**

**Admission: from £5  
Age suitability: 18+**

To book click [here](#).

Centre Stage presents a specially curated group of up-and-coming artists to join their live band for a conscious celebration of Black History in Music.

Line up to be announced!

If you're a performer seeking a gig, a chance to showcase your talent and access more opportunities, then reach out!

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [www.poplarunion.com](http://www.poplarunion.com)



### About Centre Stage

Centre Stage is an event platform for artists & creatives from the performing arts industry. In partnership with Poplar Union, they provide a safe, comfortable and inclusive space for emerging artists to showcase their talents. It is a great place to gig, network and enjoy live music and local talent. At Centre Stage they also have an artist development programme in place to help them achieve their full potential.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
OCTOBER 2021**

# SAT 23

## Story Sleuths: The Stories of Black Londoners



Explore the stories of past Black Londoners with this digital trail. Hear their words, see their faces and learn how their legacies have shaped this city and the lives of people who live here today.

## ‘London’s Innovators’



Join us for a week of events celebrating London's Black innovators and their amazing contributions to this city. Take part in craft events, storytelling sessions and interactives workshops, all taking inspiration from incredible Londoners.

**BOTH EVENTS:**

**23-31 October**

**Saturday-Sunday**

**Museum of London Docklands  
1 Warehouse, West India Quay, No,  
Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL**

**Admission: Free**

**🏠 [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)**





## Panel Talk: The Journey to Identity of Black British Women



**24 October**

**Sunday 5.30 – 8.30pm**

**Restless Beings Café, 116B Bow  
Road, E3 3AA**

**Admission: Free**

**Max: 20 tickets**

To book click [here](#).

Lon-Art presents an evening of live music, poetry and a panel discussion exploring our lived experiences. Speakers will be black British artists and activists who will share how they explore identity within their work. There is also the chance to hear about a research exploring the identity of African Diaspora Women.



This event is presented by researcher and Lon-art's Trustee Carolyn Baguma as part of Black Sheres Month. This aims to highlight the herstories of black women in Britain, their experiences, struggles and achievements through the arts.

(The event will also be live-streamed from ROOT25 via youtube and Instagram)

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# MON 25

## Let's Talk - Black History Month Talking Diaries



**25 October  
Monday**

**Leaders In Community, Teviot  
Centre, 1 Wyvis Street, E14 6QD**

**Admission: Free, booking essential**

To book click [here](#).

The Canals and Rivers Trust would love to hear your amazing stories. Come down to E14 and share your tales about what brought you to Tower Hamlets, your heritage, your community and who you are! This can be recorded on audio or video.

This is a fantastic opportunity to capture oral history from diverse members of the community of all ages. Refreshments will be provided.

Keep up to date with the latest events, news and stories by signing up to our newsletter.



🏠 [canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

To book upcoming events:  
**Canal & River Trust Events**



**Canal &  
River Trust**  
Making life better by water

## Let's Walk — Docklands Black History Month Walks



**27 October**

**Wednesday**

**Meeting at Museum London  
Docklands, 1 Warehouse, West India  
Quay, No, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL**

**Admission: Free, booking essential**

To book click [here](#).

Let's Walk is designed as an introduction for those who want to take up walking as well as chance to look at the black history of the area.

All walks are free, fun and friendly. The weekly walk, run by Canal & River Trust, will be led by qualified walk leaders who are also full of interesting information about the local area.

The circular walks will start and finish at the Entrance to Museum London Docklands, and follow routes which include the Docklands.



Why not come along, get more active, meet new people, discover your local canal towpaths and discover how the history of the area is related to the transatlantic slave trade.

🏠 [canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

To book upcoming events:  
**Canal & River Trust Events**



## Art Workshop: Exploring Black British women identity



**27 October**

**Wednesday  
6.30 – 8pm**

**Online**

**Admission: Free**

To book click [here](#).

Black women are often overlooked in our society due to a lack of education about intersectionality. How do Black women navigate being British when visually they do not blend into society like their white counterparts and when they often face barriers that differ to other women of colour? Together, we will explore stereotypes and hold them up against the truths of herstory, expressing our ideas through words and images.

All Black British women and allies are welcome to join, to express themselves and to learn in a trauma-free, creative environment.



This online workshop will open a conversation about 'colourism', 'sexuality' and 'hair' herstories, led by our Shero artist Rachelle Romeo.

Lon-Art presents this event is part of Black Sheroes Month. This aims to highlight the herstories of black women in Britain, their experiences, struggles and achievements through the arts.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# WED 27

## Somali Literature Evening Oxford House



**27 October**

**Wednesday**

**7.15 – 10pm**

**Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E2  
6HG**

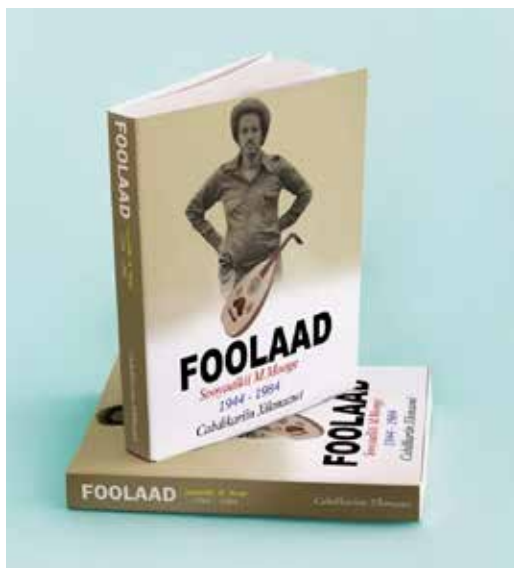
**Admission: £5**

**Language: Somali**

This evening will see the launch of two highly anticipated autobiography books of two of the greatest role models in the Somali community. This is immensely important work in a traditionally oral society and they are celebrated for this contribution to Somali literature and history.

Foolaad by Cabdikariim Xikmaawi, about the life, music and struggle of one of the greatest artists, human rights activist and educationalist Maxamed Mooge. Cabdikariim is poet, author and an expert in Somali language.

Ahmed Abdi Hassan is an author whose latest book is focused on the works and the life of the great Somali



artist, the late Xasan Qawdhan Yusuf Titled: Joogaha Maqan. Ahmed works as an accountant in treasury section of Bank of Somaliland.

Part of the 13th annual Somali Week Festival to be held between 26th-30th October 2021. The theme of this year is "Inspire: inspired by the past, inspiring the future" which envisages a post Covid-19 world inspired by music, literature and legends of our community

Part of the 13th annual Somali Week Festival presented by KAYD, which runs from 26th-30th October 2021.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

## Boney M



**27 / 28 October**

**Wednesday and Thursday  
See website for  
performance times**

**Boisdale Canary Wharf, Cabot  
Square, Canary Wharf,  
E14 4QT**

**Admission: £59**

Everyone knows the name. Everyone knows at least one of their songs. Now meet Boney M, featuring founding member Maizie Williams, for an evening of explosive and pulsating disco super hits from the Yamaha Music London stage at Boisdale of Canary Wharf. Rivers of Babylon, Mary's Boy Child, Sunny & Daddy Cool.

✉ [reservations@boisdale-cw.co.uk](mailto:reservations@boisdale-cw.co.uk)



Tower Hamlets offers a selection of email newsletters to keep you up to date on a variety of topics. If you haven't already subscribed to our monthly Event Highlights Ebulletin you can sign up to this or any others [here](#).



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
OCTOBER 2021**

# WED 27

## Grand Union Orchestra BHM Workshops



**27 - 29 October**

**Wednesday - Friday  
1 – 5pm**

**Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street,  
E14 6TL**

**Admission: Free (must sign-up to  
reserve place)**

**Age suitability: 12+**

To book click [here](#).

Young instrumentalists are invited to join and learn from the Grand Union Orchestra this half term to celebrate the music that comes from the African diaspora.



**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

 [www.grandunion.org.uk](http://www.grandunion.org.uk)

 [Grand\\_union](#)

 [grandunionorchestra](#)

## Justice in Fashion: Runway Fundraiser



**28 October**

**Thursday**

**7.30 – 10pm**

**Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street,  
E14 6TL**

**Admission: £12 / £10 con. (all  
proceeds going to Justice in  
Fashion)**

**Age suitability: 16+ (under 18's  
accompanied by an adult)**

**To book click [here](#).**

Fashion shouldn't cost the earth. Fashion should be about feeling good, being creative, self-expression and self-love! So, don your (sustainable!) glad rags and join Poplar Union in partnership with sustainable fashion CIC, Justice in Fashion and local artist and designer, Lyn Gerald, for a night of fashion, food, cocktails and maybe even a raffle with some super stylish prizes to be won!



You'll also get exclusive looks at the latest collections of a host of East-London fashion designers as our stunning models of all ages, shapes and sizes bring it to the runway!

All money raised on the night will go towards Justice in Fashion, supporting their ongoing efforts to end modern-slavery in the textile and fashion industry, to continue their pioneering research in Leicester, the US and India and to educate, engage and empower garment workers and consumers globally.

## Oxford House Book Launches: Parallel



**28 October**

**Thursday**

**7.15 – 10pm**

**Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,  
E2 6HG**

**Admission: £5**

**Language: Somali**

This evening is the main book day of Somali Week Festival, featuring book stalls, meeting the authors and the launches of the following books:

### **Juz 'Amma of the Holy Qur'an Somali translation**

A translation into Somali of the first chapter of Holy Qur'an. The translator is an experienced author of many books, a clergy man, teacher, community worker, and social debate facilitator. Religious translation is a unique niche in the translation world and there is still a great deal lacking in Somali translation. Therefore, a conversation with the translator will also include a general discussion about the state of the Somali religious translations; ways, means, and challenges.



### **Sunita**

A Somali translation of the Skinless Goat in Somalia, by Awes Osman.

"The hero of the story, Omar, a Somali student, meets Sunita, the beautiful daughter of his professor, and the two falls in love and then their story takes an interesting turn that jeopardizes the lives of many African students in India; to the extreme of almost causing an international diplomatic crises! Awes A. Osman, went far to uncover a hidden cultural diversities in the world that could be bound together through a single love knot. The voices that show rebellion to the union of two different personalities joining under one heart is met with the

will and determination of Omar and Sunita, the hero and heroine of the book that abandon everything they had just to satisfy their hearts. Awes Osman shows how religious, geographical and language barriers do not affect much when love emotion takes control. It is a journey that shows the world can be united and globalized in a high time that political and cultural differences, religious barriers make hurdles in world progress. The book can be a symbol of how can peoples of different backgrounds unite and intermarry." - Förlag Axplock

## **Calaf iyo Cugasho**

Author: Mohamoud Ibrahim Jama (Haji)

A memoir on the Somalia Civil War and the severe effects it had on the ordinary Somalis. This is true story on two young university classmates who after losing each other and everything in the war found each other in exile.

## **Danjire**

Author: Mohamed Ali Nour (Ameeriko)

The book is an autobiography of the author who served as a former Somali ambassador to Kenya.



Part of the 13th annual Somali Week Festival presented by KAYD, which runs from 26th-30th October 2021. The theme of this year is "Inspire: inspired by the past, inspiring the future" which envisages a post Covid-19 world inspired by music, literature and legends of our community.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

## All Purpose LDN presents The Living Room



**29 October**

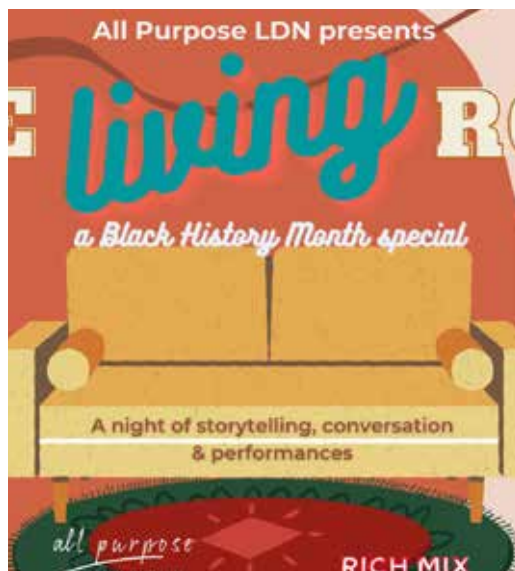
**Friday**

**Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road,  
E1 6LA**

**Admission: £7**

The Living Room will consist of conversations, storytelling from the older and newer generation, performances, and a short film. It will be an intimate night of storytelling about origin, heritage and home.

This event will be nostalgic, conversational, and community-based where we will listen and hear the stories from others within our communities. Our community will be able to reminisce and connect on an intimate level with similar stories.



We intend to take an intergenerational approach by providing a platform for elders within the black community to share their stories alongside the younger generation. This will be coupled with performances that celebrate blackness in all its glory.

🏠 [www.richmix.org.uk](http://www.richmix.org.uk)

## Somali Literature Evening Oxford House



**29 October**

**Friday 7.15 – 10pm**

**Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,  
E2 6HG**

**Admission: £5**

**Language: Somali**

Launch of Hawaale Waran, by Hadraawi, edited by Mohamed Saleeban and a conversation with Ahmeddeey Abdi Gashaan. This evening sees the launch of the first book ever written by Hadraawi - an assessment about his thinking emphasising the historical tradition, social changes and role of religion in Somali society. The book was edited by Mohamed Saleeban, a writer, literature critic, follower of Hadraawi literature and currently a department head at the Ministry of Education in Somaliland.

The second session of the evening is Somali writer and translator Bodhari Warsame will be in conversation with one of our living legends



Laashin Ahmaddey Abdi Gaashaan about his life story and long artistic works based in the Banaadiri poetry and culture for the new release of Gashaan's biography. This includes his most famous theatrical play 'Shan iyo Tobankii Shumey'. The first part of this evening will include a conversation with artistic icon Ahmed Abdi Gashaan and a book presentation and book reading.

Part of the Somali Week Festival.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [www.kayd.org](http://www.kayd.org)



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# FRI 29

## The Original Wailers Ft Al Anderson



**29 / 30 October**

**Friday and Saturday**

**Boisdale Canary Wharf, Cabot  
Square, Canary Wharf, E14 4QT**

**Admission: £39+**

Forty years on, the legacy of reggae musician Bob Marley is still alive. Al Anderson, lead guitarist of the original Bob Marley & The Wailers line up will be bringing all the top hits from the Legend album! Redemption Song, One Love, I shot the Sheriff, Three Little Birds and No Woman No Cry.

✉ [reservations@boisdale-cw.co.uk](mailto:reservations@boisdale-cw.co.uk)



### About the venue

Jools Holland is Boisdale's Patron of Music presenting the very best in jazz, blues and soul and occasionally rock'n'roll. Described as "London's No 1 jazz venue" by Tatler Magazine, Boisdale of Canary Wharf is a two-floor venue overlooking the fountains of Cabot Square, which comprises an award-winning restaurant, four private dining rooms, The Oyster Bar & Grill, Terrace, and the world's most extensive whiskey bar.

## Family Interactive Day



**30 October**

**Saturday 12noon –3pm**

**Oxford House Derbyshire Street,  
E2 6HG**

**Admission: Free**

**Language: English and Somali**

This is a much-loved children's segment by long-time Kayd partner Galool and Jawahir Farah featuring storytelling, quizzes, face painting and crafts.

### **Galool Somali Children's Entertainment**

Ilwad Sabban promotes the writing and reading of the Somali language among Somali children in the UK, based on the cultural and linguistic resources she has developed alongside her mother Zainab Dahir available on [www.galool.com](http://www.galool.com). They are launching a kid's TV and will be sharing this exciting development. Jawahir A. Farah has been a teacher (1990-2014) in the London Borough of Ealing, U.K. She is also an author, self-publisher and writes mainly



for primary age children. Currently, Jawahir is a Director/Founder of Somsimma.com for the Deaf/Blind in remote areas of Somalia. She will be sharing story telling and pre-recorded footage from her bilingual academic books been taught to students in Hayes, Ealing.

Part of the Somali Week Festival.

**Supported by Tower Hamlets Council**

🏠 [www.kayd.org](http://www.kayd.org)

## Limehouse Project and WIT celebrate Black History Month

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**30 October**

**Saturday 12noon – 3pm**

**Mayfield Hub, 202 Cambridge  
Heath, Bethnal Green,  
E2 9LJ**

**Admission: Free**

BAME Network will arrange a celebration of Black History Month at the Mayfield Hub. The programme will include the exhibition of African ornaments, WALL of Fame, to showcase amazing women during the Pandemic.

The event will include speeches and Q&A session with Simon Andrew Woolley and Safia Jama. Baron Woolley of Woodford (TBC) is a political and equalities activist and the founder and director of Operation Black Vote. Safia Jama is CEO of the Women's Inclusive Team, a race equality commissioner at the Tower Hamlets.



Limehouse Project



There will also be live entertainment, with music, interactive African Dancing and traditional Somali food to further the African experience.

People can also join the event via zoom and other online platforms, which will be arranged closer to the event date.

🏠 [www.wit.org.uk](http://www.wit.org.uk)

🏠 [limehouseproject.org.uk](http://limehouseproject.org.uk)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# SAT 30

## The Young Sierra Leonean presents — Kip Kompin: Take 4



**30 October**

**Saturday 7 – 10pm**

**Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street,  
E14 6TL**

**Admission: From £8**

To book click [here](#).

Kip Kompin Cinema presents to you an intimate evening with Sierra Leone's most amazing emerging filmmakers from home and across the diaspora. Join us as we introduce you to a world you've never been to before, a world that explores Sierra Leone from the perspective of creatives who live and breathe Sierra Leone, a world where you no longer need to go searching for quality Sierra Leonean films because we've done the searching for you.



Our number one goal is production quality so expect our films to be visually stunning as films are supposed to be.

In addition to our feature screening, there will be performances from special guests, interactive quizzes & game-shows, and the opportunity to network with a room full of people passionate about Sierra Leone.

Films to be announced!

For more information, follow The Young Sierra Leonean at @Young\_Salone.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
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# SUN 31

## Black-Owned Makers Market

**31 October**

**Sunday 11am – 3pm**

**Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street,  
E14 6TL**

**Admission: Free**

This October, as part of Poplar Union's Black History Month celebrations we bring you a brand-new Sunday market: The Black-Owned Makers Market.

Here you will find a variety of black-owned and run start-ups and businesses from clothing and accessories to the finest health and beauty products. As local entrepreneur, Chantelle Small said: Black is success, so come and treat yourself to some weekend retail therapy and contribute to the success of these brilliant, local businesses.

Stall holders to be announced.



If you'd like to run a stall at the market, please send us an email [info@poplarunion.com](mailto:info@poplarunion.com)

**poplar  
Union**

